



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/802,401

03/17/2004

Achim Hartlaub

82448

3701

22242 7590 05/14/2007
FITCH EVEN TABIN AND FLANNERY
120 SOUTH LA SALLE STREET
SUITE 1600
CHICAGO, IL 60603-3406

EXAMINER

LUONG, VINH

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3682

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

05/14/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Interview Summary	Application No. 10/802,401	Applicant(s) HARTLAUB ET AL.	
	Examiner Vinh T. Luong	Art Unit 3682	

All participants (applicant, applicant's representative, PTO personnel):

(1) Vinh T. Luong. (3)_____

(2) Stephen S. Favakeh. (4)_____

Date of Interview: 10 May 2007.

Type: a) ☒ Telephonic b) ☐ Video Conference
c) ☐ Personal [copy given to: 1) ☐ applicant 2) ☐ applicant's representative]

Exhibit shown or demonstration conducted: d) ☐ Yes e) ☒ No.
If Yes, brief description: _____

Claim(s) discussed: 5 and 16 as seen in the proposed amendment faxed on May 4, 2007 attached.

Identification of prior art discussed: Miyako et al. (US Pub. No. 2002/0033321 A1).

Agreement with respect to the claims f) ☒ was reached. g) ☐ was not reached. h) ☐ N/A.

Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: The Examiner agreed that the proposed amended Claims 5 and 16 would overcome the rejection under 35 USC 102(e) based on Miyako in the Office action on February 28, 2007, however, such amendment would raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search.

(A fuller description, if necessary, and a copy of the amendments which the examiner agreed would render the claims allowable, if available, must be attached. Also, where no copy of the amendments that would render the claims allowable is available, a summary thereof must be attached.)

THE FORMAL WRITTEN REPLY TO THE LAST OFFICE ACTION MUST INCLUDE THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. (See MPEP Section 713.04). If a reply to the last Office action has already been filed, APPLICANT IS GIVEN A NON-EXTENDABLE PERIOD OF THE LONGER OF ONE MONTH OR THIRTY DAYS FROM THIS INTERVIEW DATE, OR THE MAILING DATE OF THIS INTERVIEW SUMMARY FORM, WHICHEVER IS LATER, TO FILE A STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. See Summary of Record of Interview requirements on reverse side or on attached sheet.

Vinh T. Luong
Primary Examiner



Examiner Note: You must sign this form unless it is an Attachment to a signed Office action.

Examiner's signature, if required

Summary of Record of Interview Requirements

Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP), Section 713.04, Substance of Interview Must be Made of Record

A complete written statement as to the substance of any face-to-face, video conference, or telephone interview with regard to an application must be made of record in the application whether or not an agreement with the examiner was reached at the interview.

Title 37 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 1.133 Interviews

Paragraph (b)

In every instance where reconsideration is requested in view of an interview with an examiner, a complete written statement of the reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action must be filed by the applicant. An interview does not remove the necessity for reply to Office action as specified in §§ 1.111, 1.135. (35 U.S.C. 132)

37 CFR §1.2 Business to be transacted in writing.

All business with the Patent or Trademark Office should be transacted in writing. The personal attendance of applicants or their attorneys or agents at the Patent and Trademark Office is unnecessary. The action of the Patent and Trademark Office will be based exclusively on the written record in the Office. No attention will be paid to any alleged oral promise, stipulation, or understanding in relation to which there is disagreement or doubt.

The action of the Patent and Trademark Office cannot be based exclusively on the written record in the Office if that record is itself incomplete through the failure to record the substance of interviews.

It is the responsibility of the applicant or the attorney or agent to make the substance of an interview of record in the application file, unless the examiner indicates he or she will do so. It is the examiner's responsibility to see that such a record is made and to correct material inaccuracies which bear directly on the question of patentability.

Examiners must complete an Interview Summary Form for each interview held where a matter of substance has been discussed during the interview by checking the appropriate boxes and filling in the blanks. Discussions regarding only procedural matters, directed solely to restriction requirements for which interview recordation is otherwise provided for in Section 812.01 of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, or pointing out typographical errors or unreadable script in Office actions or the like, are excluded from the interview recordation procedures below. Where the substance of an interview is completely recorded in an Examiners Amendment, no separate Interview Summary Record is required.

The Interview Summary Form shall be given an appropriate Paper No., placed in the right hand portion of the file, and listed on the "Contents" section of the file wrapper. In a personal interview, a duplicate of the Form is given to the applicant (or attorney or agent) at the conclusion of the interview. In the case of a telephone or video-conference interview, the copy is mailed to the applicant's correspondence address either with or prior to the next official communication. If additional correspondence from the examiner is not likely before an allowance or if other circumstances dictate, the Form should be mailed promptly after the interview rather than with the next official communication.

The Form provides for recordation of the following information:

- Application Number (Series Code and Serial Number)
- Name of applicant
- Name of examiner
- Date of interview
- Type of interview (telephonic, video-conference, or personal)
- Name of participant(s) (applicant, attorney or agent, examiner, other PTO personnel, etc.)
- An indication whether or not an exhibit was shown or a demonstration conducted
- An identification of the specific prior art discussed
- An indication whether an agreement was reached and if so, a description of the general nature of the agreement (may be by attachment of a copy of amendments or claims agreed as being allowable). Note: Agreement as to allowability is tentative and does not restrict further action by the examiner to the contrary.
- The signature of the examiner who conducted the interview (if Form is not an attachment to a signed Office action)

It is desirable that the examiner orally remind the applicant of his or her obligation to record the substance of the interview of each case. It should be noted, however, that the Interview Summary Form will not normally be considered a complete and proper recordation of the interview unless it includes, or is supplemented by the applicant or the examiner to include, all of the applicable items required below concerning the substance of the interview.

A complete and proper recordation of the substance of any interview should include at least the following applicable items:

- 1) A brief description of the nature of any exhibit shown or any demonstration conducted,
- 2) an identification of the claims discussed,
- 3) an identification of the specific prior art discussed,
- 4) an identification of the principal proposed amendments of a substantive nature discussed, unless these are already described on the Interview Summary Form completed by the Examiner,
- 5) a brief identification of the general thrust of the principal arguments presented to the examiner,
(The identification of arguments need not be lengthy or elaborate. A verbatim or highly detailed description of the arguments is not required. The identification of the arguments is sufficient if the general nature or thrust of the principal arguments made to the examiner can be understood in the context of the application file. Of course, the applicant may desire to emphasize and fully describe those arguments which he or she feels were or might be persuasive to the examiner.)
- 6) a general indication of any other pertinent matters discussed, and
- 7) if appropriate, the general results or outcome of the interview unless already described in the Interview Summary Form completed by the examiner.

Examiners are expected to carefully review the applicant's record of the substance of an interview. If the record is not complete and accurate, the examiner will give the applicant an extendable one month time period to correct the record.

Examiner to Check for Accuracy

If the claims are allowable for other reasons of record, the examiner should send a letter setting forth the examiner's version of the statement attributed to him or her. If the record is complete and accurate, the examiner should place the indication, "Interview Record OK" on the paper recording the substance of the interview along with the date and the examiner's initials.

F A C S I M I L E

Date: May 4, 2007

NO. OF PAGES: 7

FROM: Stephen S. Favakeh
312-577-7000

OUR FILE NO. 7682/82448

Sent by Tracy Ibarra (312) 629-7951

TO:

Examiner Vinh Luong GAU: 3682	(571) 273-7109	
United States Patent and Trademark Office		

**Proposed Amendment for Examiner consideration only.
DO NOT FILE.**

☞ *Kindly acknowledge receipt by return facsimile.* ☞

The documents accompanying this facsimile transmittal cover sheet contain information from the law firm of Fitch, Even, Tabin & Flannery which may be confidential and/or legally privileged. The documents are intended only for the personal and confidential use of the addressee identified above. If you are not the intended recipient or an agent responsible for delivering these documents to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any review, disclosure, copying, distribution or the taking of any action in reliance on the contents of this transmitted information is strictly prohibited. If you have received this facsimile in error, please immediately notify the Firm so that we can arrange for the return of the original documents to us. Thank you.

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appln No.: 10/802,401)
Filed: 03/17/2004)
Applicant(s): Achim Hartlaub)
Title: STEERING WHEEL)
WITH AT LEAST)
ONE DEVICE FOR)
THE FASTENING OF)
BUILD-ON PARTS)
Art Unit: 3682)
Examiner: Vinh Luong)
Attorney Docket No.: 7682/82448)
Customer No.: 22242)

Confirmation No. 3701***PROPOSED AMENDMENT*****PROPOSED AMENDMENT****LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (Canceled)
2. (Canceled)
3. (Currently amended) The steering wheel as claimed in claim 16 including an adhesive between the holding part and the steering wheel skeleton for adhesively bonding the holding part to the steering wheel ~~skelton~~ skeleton.

4. (Previously presented) A steering wheel for mounting of a build-on part thereto, the steering wheel comprising:

a steering wheel skeleton;

foam material surrounding the skeleton; and

a holding part that is fixed relative to the skeleton by the foam material so that a first portion of the holding part is fixed within the foam material against removal therefrom and a second portion of the holding part projects therefrom for mounting of the build-on part thereto,

wherein an interspace, which is filled by the steering wheel foam material, is present between the steering wheel skeleton and the holding part.

5. (Currently amended) ~~The steering wheel as claimed in claim 16,~~ A steering wheel for mounting of a build-on part thereto, the steering wheel comprising:

a steering wheel skeleton;

foam material surrounding the skeleton; and

a holding part that is fixed relative to the skeleton by the foam material so that a first portion of the holding part is fixed within the foam material against removal therefrom and a second portion of the holding part projects therefrom for mounting of the build-on part thereto,

wherein the first portion of the holding part surrounds the steering wheel skeleton at least partially at one point.

6. (Currently amended) ~~The steering wheel as claimed in claim 5, wherein A~~ steering wheel for mounting of a build-on part thereto, the steering wheel comprising:

a steering wheel skeleton;

foam material surrounding the skeleton; and

a holding part that is fixed relative to the skeleton by the foam material so

that a first portion of the holding part is fixed within the foam material against removal therefrom and a second portion of the holding part projects therefrom for mounting of the build-on part thereto,

the first portion of the holding part surrounds the steering wheel skeleton at least partially at one point, and the holding part first portion has a U-shaped configuration of substantially constant cross-sectional thickness adjacent the steering wheel skeleton.

7. (Withdrawn) The steering wheel as claimed in claim 5, wherein the holding part has an L-shaped design in the region of the steering wheel skeleton.

8. (Withdrawn) The steering wheel as claimed in claim 1, wherein the holding part has a flat design in the region of the steering wheel skeleton.

9. (Previously presented) The steering wheel as claimed in claim 16, wherein the holding part is adjacent a spoke of the steering wheel.

10. (Previously presented) The steering wheel as claimed in claim 16, wherein the holding part is a sheet metal part.

11. (Previously presented) The steering wheel as claimed in claim 16, wherein the holding part is a plastic part.

12. (Previously presented) The steering wheel as claimed in claim 16, wherein the build-on part comprises an adaptor, which is connected to the holding part and allows an additional build-on part to be connected thereto.

13. (Original) The steering wheel as claimed in claim 12, wherein the adaptor is an

adaptor plate.

14. (Previously presented) The steering wheel as claimed in claim 16, wherein the holding part is connected to the build-on part by means of screws or rivets.

15. (Previously presented) The steering wheel as claimed in claim 16, wherein the first portion of the holding part which lies within the steering wheel foam surround has a smaller longitudinal extent than the portion which lies outside the steering wheel foam surround.

16. (Currently amended) A steering wheel for mounting of a build-on part thereto, the steering wheel comprising:

a steering wheel skeleton;

foam material surrounding the skeleton; and

a holding part that is fixed relative to the skeleton by the foam material so that a first portion of the holding part is fixed within the foam material against removal therefrom and a second portion of the holding part projects therefrom for mounting of the build-on part thereto; and

a generally flat surface of the holding part first portion that engages against the steering wheel skeleton with the remainder of the holding part first portion engaged by the foam material surrounding the steel wheel skeleton to hold the generally flat surface against the steering wheel skeleton.

17. (Previously presented) The steering wheel of claim 16 wherein the skeleton is free of drilled openings for receiving fasteners for supporting the holding part in substantially fixed relation thereto.

18. (Previously presented) The steering wheel of claim 16 wherein the first portion is spaced from the skeleton and embedded in the foam material to be surrounded thereby.
19. (Previously presented) The steering wheel of claim 16 wherein the foam material provides the only holding force between the holding part and the steering wheel skeleton.
20. (Previously presented) The steering wheel of claim 16 wherein the steering wheel skeleton and the holding part have predetermined substantially fixed positions relative to each other via molding of the foam material to surround the skeleton with the skeleton and the holding part in the predetermined substantially fixed positions.